United Nations S/2006/302

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 May 2006

Original: English

Letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward for your attention a statement by Ali Osman Mohamed Taha, the Vice-President of the Republic of the Sudan regarding measures to improve the situation in Darfur (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omar B. **Manis**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-35372 (E) 190506

Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The attainment of comprehensive peace in all parts of the country remains a strategic national objective, one which we have been exerting keen efforts to realize.

The recent signing of the Abuja Peace Agreement by the Government of National Unity represents yet another milestone, and a national achievement along our path towards peace in the Sudan.

The signing of the peace agreement means the following:

- Bringing an end to war and bloodshed
- Addressing the humanitarian repercussions of war, the most important of which are the issues of displacement, migration and refugees
- Achieving reconstruction and development
- Releasing national energies to achieve sustainable development and well-being of citizens.

In the light of the above, it gives me great pleasure to announce to the Sudanese people the following measures and policies in the humanitarian field, which underscore the focal role of humanitarian considerations in peacebuilding. The taste of peace must also be savoured by those who have been denied it.

First: The allocation of 20,000 metric tons of food to the World Food Programme (WFP). This will help to fill the gap in food that has led to reducing by half the quotas of those targeted within the three coming months. This will restore the quotas to their full quantity. I hereby direct the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and the Ministry of Finance to immediately execute these directives.

I would like to thank all donors who have lent or announced their support, and all United Nations agencies working in Darfur. I call upon all brotherly Arab and Islamic countries to continue lending their solidarity and support. I call upon the Sudanese people to lead a public campaign for the support of their people in Darfur.

Second: I would like to call upon all concerned Governments and state governments and our partners in peace and humanitarian action to work together to help to implement an emergency limited term relief plan to address the humanitarian repercussions resulting from war, which will guarantee achieving the following two main objectives:

(a) Normalization of civil life in Darfur states;

(b) Achieve an expeditious transition to reconstruction and rehabilitation.

Third: I announce the firm commitment of the Government to provide all available facilities for the organizations working in Darfur, and hereby reaffirm the Government's commitment to the fast track policy for humanitarian activities, and direct the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs to coordinate its efforts with those of national and international organizations to execute the humanitarian emergency action plan, in addition to working towards removing any obstacles, and provide facilities to put that plan into action.

Four: The Government last month, allocated SD 150 billion for Darfur state governments in support of the provision of basic services and achieving development in those states. I hereby direct the Ministry of Finance and the state governments to begin the execution of the emergency relief plan to restore basic services to rehabilitate the areas of the displaced and the refugees, in preparation for their return home.

Five: The Government acknowledges that the above-mentioned achievements are tightly linked to the security situation on the ground, and I would hence like to reiterate the Government's firm commitment to uphold the ceasefire, and proceed effortlessly to undertake all necessary measures to achieve that end.

Finally, I call upon our brothers Abdul Wahid Mohamed Nour and Dr. Khalil Ibrahim to take the courageous decision to join the peace march, since war can never be endless.

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Security Council

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19 May 2006
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Letter dated 15 May 2006 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) established on 1 June 2004 pursuant to Security Council resolution 1542 (2004).

Following the usual consultations, it is my intention to appoint Mr. Edmond Mulet (Guatemala) as my Special Representative in Haiti and Head of MINUSTAH. He will replace Mr. Juan Valdés (Chile), who will complete his assignment on 31 May 2006. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to Mr. Valdés for his dedication and effective leadership of MINUSTAH.

I should be grateful if you would bring this matter to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**

06-35411 (E) 190506 190506

United Nations S/2006/304

Security Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2006
English
Original: French

Letter dated 18 May 2006 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that your letter dated 15 May 2006 (S/2006/303) concerning your proposal to appoint Mr. Edmond Mulet (Guatemala) as Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti has been brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council, who have taken due note of the proposal.

(*Signed*) Basile **Ikouebe**

06-35417 (E) 190506 190506

United Nations S/2006/305

Security Council

Distr.: General
18 May 2006
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter addressed to you by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States regarding a statement issued by the Arab leaders at the summit meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States held in Khartoum, the Sudan from 28 to 29 March 2006 on the question of making the region of the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons. I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer

06-35366 (E) 220506 220506

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Permanent Observer of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to inform you that during the summit meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States held in the Sudan from 28 to 29 March 2006 the Arab leaders considered the regional security situation and the question of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. They issued a statement regarding making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, in which they expressed their deep concern over negative developments related to nuclear disarmament and the setbacks encountered by the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in particular the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Arab leaders also expressed their commitment to and support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and reaffirmed their complete rejection of the possession of nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction by any State in the region of the Middle East. The statement also affirmed that the best solution for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region is a comprehensive approach through adoption by the international community of the Arab initiative that has for years called for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons.

Since this issue falls within the concerns of both of our organizations and is in line with many resolutions issued by both the United Nations and the Arab League, I hope that our joint efforts towards making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, will continue.

It gives me pleasure to annex the statement of the Summit on an issue of great importance due to its implications for the security and stability of the Middle East. I should be grateful if it could be issued as a document of the United Nations.

I take this opportunity to express my fervent desire for continued cooperation and coordination between our two organizations, and my appreciation for your sincere efforts.

(*Signed*) Amr **Moussa**
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Statement on making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons

The Arab leaders express their deep concern over negative international developments related to nuclear disarmament and the setbacks encountered by the nuclear non-proliferation regime, especially the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which represents an unacceptable retreat from the achievements realized by the two review conferences of 1995 and 2000, especially as concerns the region of the Middle East.

The Arab leaders affirm their commitment to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and their support for it as a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime. They demand that the international community support this Treaty by universalizing it and devote equal attention to putting into effect the three pillars on which the Treaty rests, which are nuclear disarmament, the right of Member States to acquire and develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons.

They also affirm their complete rejection of the possession of nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction by any State in the region of the Middle East, because of the dangerous consequences this poses to regional and international peace and security and the environment in the region. They remind the international community that all the Arab States without exception willingly acceded to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons prior to 2000 and that security and stability in the Middle East cannot be achieved unless Israel accedes to that Treaty and abides by its provisions like the rest of the States in the region, and places all of its nuclear facilities under the comprehensive safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency. They caution that the prolongation of this situation will lead to increased imbalance in the security and stability of the region, and will moreover plunge the region into an arms race with dire consequences.

Based on the foregoing, the Arab leaders affirm that the best solution for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region is to follow a comprehensive regional approach through adoption by the international community of the Arab initiative that has for years called for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons. They stress that the continued treatment of the dangers of proliferation of these weapons in the Middle East on a selective State-by-State basis represents a blatant contradiction in international policies on this matter.

They request that the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States continue to pursue this matter and submit a report on the security situation in the Arab world in light of regional and international developments to the next regular session of the Council of the League at the summit level.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
31 May 2006
English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Head of the New York Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter addressed to you by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States regarding a statement issued by the Arab leaders at the summit meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States held in Khartoum, the Sudan from 28 to 29 March 2006 on the question of making the region of the Middle East into a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons. I should be grateful if this letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Security Council, in accordance with Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations.

(*Signed*) Yahya **Mahmassani**
Ambassador
Head of the New York Mission

* Reissued for technical reasons.

06-35366* (E) 310506 310506

Annex to the letter dated 18 May 2006 from the Head of the New York Mission of the League of Arab States to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am pleased to inform you that during the summit meeting of the Council of the League of Arab States held in the Sudan from 28 to 29 March 2006 the Arab leaders considered the regional security situation and the question of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons. They issued a statement regarding making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, in which they expressed their deep concern over negative developments related to nuclear disarmament and the setbacks encountered by the nuclear non-proliferation regime, in particular the failure of the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. The Arab leaders also expressed their commitment to and support for the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as a cornerstone of the nuclear non-proliferation regime and reaffirmed their complete rejection of the possession of nuclear weapons or any weapons of mass destruction by any State in the region of the Middle East. The statement also affirmed that the best solution for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in the region is a comprehensive approach through adoption by the international community of the Arab initiative that has for years called for making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons.

Since this issue falls within the concerns of both of our organizations and is in line with many resolutions issued by both the United Nations and the Arab League, I hope that our joint efforts towards making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons, will continue.

It gives me pleasure to annex the statement of the Summit on an issue of great importance due to its implications for the security and stability of the Middle East. I should be grateful if it could be issued as a document of the United Nations.

I take this opportunity to express my fervent desire for continued cooperation and coordination between our two organizations, and my appreciation for your sincere efforts.

(*Signed*) Amr **Moussa**
Secretary-General of the League of Arab States

Statement on making the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction, above all nuclear weapons

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They request that the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States continue to pursue this matter and submit a report on the security situation in the Arab world in light of regional and international developments to the next regular session of the Council of the League at the summit level.

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Security Council

Distr.: General
19 May 2006

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Report of the Secretary-General on Darfur

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraphs 6, 13 and 16 of Security Council resolution 1556 (2004), paragraph 15 of resolution 1564 (2004), paragraph 17 of resolution 1574 (2004) and paragraph 12 of resolution 1590 (2005). It covers the months of March and April 2006.

II. Insecurity in Darfur

2. The security situation over the reporting period was marked by serious armed clashes between the warring parties, numerous acts of banditry and hijacking of vehicles, continued in-fighting between the factions of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), and further destabilization along the Chad/Sudan border.

3. In Northern Darfur, there were hostilities between the Sudanese Armed Forces and SLA forces in Haskanita, Al Lait and Al Tawisa early in March, four major clashes and several other skirmishes being reported. Those clashes resulted in a number of casualties among both combatants and civilians. On 8 April, the Sudanese Armed Forces launched attacks against villages in the Jebel Wana area using two helicopter gunships. Three SLA soldiers were reportedly killed and at least 17 people injured. Late in March, the Sudanese Armed Forces and armed tribesmen attacked and looted the SLA-controlled village of Debbis and, early in April, militia attacked a number of villages in the region of Madu. On 7 April, a large convoy of Sudanese Armed Forces was ambushed by SLA in Jebel Wana between El Fasher and Kafod, and about 40 Government soldiers were killed. Government forces then attacked several villages in the area, allegedly using helicopter gunships.

4. Tensions between the SLA factions of Minni Minawi and Adbul Wahid remained high in Northern Darfur. On 3 April, the two factions clashed in the area of Khazan Jedid, while combatants of the SLA faction of Abdul Wahid launched an attack the same day in an attempt to retake control of Korma. They were repulsed by SLA troops within Korma, and scores of combatants were reported killed. There were further clashes between the SLA factions on 19 April. The Minni Minawi faction launched an attack on six villages in the Tawilla area. According to witnesses, as many as 400 attackers rode in trucks, on camels and on horseback. It is reported that the violence resulted in civilians killed, scores of people wounded,

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women raped, looting, and thousands of people displaced. The attack indicates the beginning of a new pattern of rebel troops attacking civilians on a large scale and committing human rights violations against non-combatants. Other intra-SLA clashes in mid-March and early April led to thousands of people becoming displaced and caused some to flee out of fear that their villages might be the sites of attack. In the area between Tawilla and Korma, efforts undertaken by the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) to reduce misunderstanding and promote peaceful coexistence between the Arab and Fur communities were disrupted when SLA soldiers of the Minawi faction invaded the area.

5. In the Jebel Marra area, more clashes were reported between SLA, Sudanese Armed Forces and armed tribesmen. On 17 March, there was fighting between SLA and Sudanese Armed Forces in the area of Daya and Tibon, and SLA claimed that the attackers used vehicles with AMIS and United Nations markings. This practice represents a clear affront to the neutral status of AMIS and the United Nations humanitarian operation.

6. Systematic attacks by militia on civilians also continued. Umm Shugeira village in Southern Darfur was attacked by about 200 uniformed militia on horseback and on camels, and many cattle and sheep were looted. On 13 April, at least 15 villagers were killed and 19 wounded when approximately 500 armed militia launched an attack on Kurunje village south-west of Sheiria. The attackers dragged men and women from their homes, beat them, looted their houses and stole livestock. Also in the Sheiria area, Sudanese Armed Forces supported by armed tribesmen on horseback and on camels attacked Arto and surrounding villages on 16 April. Nine villagers were reported killed and 18 wounded, while 26 people were reportedly missing. On 21 April the militia, supported by the Popular Defence Force, attacked Dito, killing 25 SLA combatants.

7. On 9 April, a group of about 160 SLA fighters attacked the market at Gueighin, south-west of Buram. In retaliation, armed militia attacked and burned the villages of Higlige, Nabakaya Halalif and Talhaya. On 16 April, Sudanese Armed Forces recaptured Donkey Dereisa, which had come under the control of SLA in December 2005. On 24 April, Sudanese Armed Forces attacked Joghana, causing further displacement of civilians. Some villages around Joghana were reportedly burned during the attack.

8. In Western Darfur, armed tribesmen on 10 April attacked the Jebel Moon area and Bir Siliba, a village close to the Chadian border. Instability in Chad has further complicated the security situation in the border region of Western Darfur, and armed groups operate on both sides of the border. On 21 March, the Chadian army reportedly attacked Chadian opposition groups in Hejaer Merfaine (Chad) and Dudei close to Masteri, south-west of Geneina. On 15 March, a group from the National Movement for Reform and Development (NMRD), supported by the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), clashed with Sudanese Armed Forces and armed tribesmen in Abu Sorouj. Up to 250 vehicles of the Chadian opposition were reportedly deployed between Masteri and Kongo Haraza.

9. As the Security Council was informed during informal consultations held on 26 April, tension along the border increased further after the Government of Chad accused the Sudan of having supported an apparent coup attempt in Chad on 13 April. The Government of the Sudan has denied any involvement in the Chad incidents. Elements of the Chadian armed opposition returned to Western Darfur

following the events of 13 April but, on 19 April, it was reported that Beida in Western Darfur was shelled from a position within Chad, one of the shells landing near a non-governmental organization compound. Despite the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006, tensions between Chad and the Sudan have not diminished and the two countries have continued to trade accusations of support to different armed groups. The security situation in the area remains precarious.

10. New armed groups have continued to be formed in Darfur as local populations have sought ways to defend themselves against attack. Those groups often recruit people younger than 18 years of age. Moreover, credible allegations have surfaced that boys aged 15 or under have been arrested and tortured by the Sudanese Armed Forces and aligned militias, on suspicion of belonging to rebel groups.

11. Banditry remains another serious problem, and humanitarian and commercial vehicles are subjected to frequent ambushes and attacks. For example, in Northern Darfur, a United Nations convoy was stopped and robbed by armed men between Kabkabiya and El Fasher on 25 March. On 4 April, non-governmental organizations staff conducting a polio immunization campaign in the Shangil Tobayi area reported that SLA combatants in the village of Umm Zakaria abducted 10 staff members and two vehicles. The staff members were later released. In Southern Darfur, armed banditry continued in the area north of Menawashi along the Nyala-El Fasher road and on the route between Yassin and Assalaya south-east of Nyala.

12. Attacks on humanitarian compounds and convoys continued also in Western Darfur. For example, in Geneina, armed militia attempted to break into a United Nations guesthouse on 12 April. On 18 April, three non-governmental organization vehicles carrying commodities from Nyala to Zalingei were ambushed and shot at near Fogadiko village. In a separate incident the same day, four non-governmental organization vehicles were ambushed by heavily-armed men north of Geneina.

13. As reported in my quarterly report on the Sudan dated 14 March 2006 (S/2006/160), a troubling anti-United Nations campaign has been witnessed in Khartoum and other Sudanese cities. The campaign, which has included unacceptable language and personal attacks on the leadership of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), has focused largely on the envisaged transition from AMIS to a United Nations-led operation in Darfur.

III. Human rights and protection

14. Civilians in Darfur continued to suffer the consequences of persistent violence and insecurity, with new displacement of populations, high levels of sexual and gender-based violence, and consistent denial of access to humanitarian assistance. As the conflict has become increasingly erratic and fragmented, civilians have become more exposed to attacks and abuse, and the population's need for protection more acute. Displaced persons continued to arrive from villages under attack or caught in crossfire, swelling camp populations. Some camps, such as Al Sereif in Nyala, are at the very limits of their capacity, leading to rising tensions over food and services. Harassment by armed elements, criminality, and shooting incidents have recently occurred in the Kerenek (Western Darfur) and Kalma (Southern Darfur) camps and appear to be on the rise elsewhere. Authorities' attempts to assert control over the camps have contributed to an atmosphere of intimidation and

volatility, and the population of the camps views the Sudanese police with increasing suspicion and even open hostility.

15. More generally, the protection provided to the civilian population in Darfur by international organizations has been eroding. United Nations and other international organizations, and non-governmental organizations, have all seen their ability to move freely and assist the populations reduced as insecurity continues to grow throughout Darfur. Protection of civilians has been further weakened by funding shortages that have caused United Nations and non-governmental organizations to cut down on their programmes. Activities that are most likely to be abandoned are those that are not of an immediate life-saving nature, such as educational or food-for-work programmes. This is unfortunate, because these activities are particularly effective at creating a protective environment for the most vulnerable sections of the population.

16. Meanwhile, high-ranking State officials and leaders of armed groups and militia have not been held accountable for violence and crimes against civilians. Although the Special Criminal Court on the Events in Darfur has been promoted by the Government as a key tool for bringing justice to the region, only one case of a large-scale attack typical of the conflict in Darfur has come before it: the attack on Tama in October 2005. The lack of a good faith effort to investigate and hold individuals accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity and other offences reinforces a widely shared sense of impunity.

17. The institutional frameworks developed through capacity-building, such as the establishment, in 2005, of State commissions on sexual and gender-based violence, have not yet led to tangible results on the ground. The number of reports to UNMIS of young women and girls who have been raped and otherwise brutalized has not decreased during the reporting period, and the police have rarely taken adequate action to investigate, arrest or prosecute the perpetrators. UNMIS has documented numerous cases of sexual and gender-based violence in the past months involving armed perpetrators wearing camouflage military-style uniforms that occurred on the outskirts of Masteri, near the Chad border, during firewood and grass collection. In Nertiti (Jebel Marra, Western Darfur), where the number of reported rapes had decreased earlier in 2006 following coordinated interventions by the United Nations, the number of incidents of gender-based violence around camps for internally displaced persons, and close to the military camp, increased again from late March and into April.

18. Since 2005, the Government has pledged to provide UNMIS with free and unfettered access to all detention facilities in the Sudan, including national security and military intelligence facilities. However, local Government officials continued to limit this access. In my January report (S/2006/148), I noted that my Special Representative had requested that this agreement be put in writing. This had still not been done as at the end of March. Meanwhile, in Southern Darfur, national security officials denied UNMIS access to detention facilities throughout the month of March.

19. I have previously noted that local human rights defenders and displaced persons who raise human rights concerns to the police, or who cooperate with the international community, remain at risk of arrest and detention. These concerns were similarly raised by the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan during her visit to the country late in February and early in March 2006. I

support her call for the Government to cease treating human rights defenders as a threat to the State. On 11 March 2006, the Humanitarian Aid Commission sent a letter to a prominent national non-governmental organization engaged in protection and human rights work, ordering it to suspend its activities. The letter, a copy of which was sent to national security and military intelligence, followed a series of threats to and harassment of the staff members of the organization by security officials in Western Darfur. I was pleased to note, however, the letter of 28 March 2006 from the Ministry of Social Affairs and Information of the State of Western Darfur, stating that the organization could resume its activities. It is important that the directive in the letter is upheld and that human rights defenders are not restricted from carrying out their work in the Sudan.

IV. Humanitarian situation

20. The continuing violence rendered the delivery of humanitarian assistance difficult in large parts of Darfur throughout both March and April. The fighting in the Haskanita area in Northern Darfur has prevented the humanitarian community from effectively accessing tens of thousands of newly displaced people. In large parts of Jebel Marra, it has been impossible to resume humanitarian activities since fighting erupted there in the second half of January 2006, leaving around 200,000 people without humanitarian assistance, including as many as 40,000 recently displaced persons. Access to other areas, such as Gereida in Southern Darfur, continues to be precarious.

21. Humanitarian access has been further limited by the administrative measures taken by the Government of the Sudan, despite the extension of the moratorium on restrictions for humanitarian work in Darfur until 31 January 2007, and the signing of the status-of-forces agreement on 28 December 2005. The Humanitarian Aid Commission has further restricted the freedom of non-governmental organizations to hire national staff. Although paragraph 64 of the status-of-forces agreement provides that United Nations offices, funds and programmes, when they perform functions in relation to the UNMIS mandate, enjoy the same rights as UNMIS itself, national security officials at Nyala airport in Southern Darfur have been harassing United Nations staff without travel permits, forcing many to return to Khartoum. At the same time, Government-imposed embargoes on certain essential items, including fuel, foodstuffs and other humanitarian assistance entering SLA-held areas in Southern Darfur, have prevented the access of civilians to vital goods and constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.

22. Equally worrying is the fact that the humanitarian community has been subjected to an increasing number of targeted attacks, as described above. In Northern Darfur, the intra-SLA fighting and the practice of hijacking non-governmental organization cars have led to serious gaps in the provision of humanitarian assistance. Four key non-governmental organizations have suspended food distribution, camp coordination, and water and sanitation operations in the Shangil Tobayi, Tabit, Gallap and Dar es Salaam areas, and other such organizations have scaled down their activities. As a result, 80,000 people have currently no access to vital services, around 1,000 children per month no longer receive routine vaccinations, and a polio immunization campaign for 20,000 children under the age of 5 had to be suspended.

V. Darfur peace process

23. During the reporting period, a concerted push was made by the African Union (AU) mediation team and participants in the inter-Sudanese peace talks in Abuja to conclude the peace negotiations. During March, the focus of the talks was on security issues. On 12 March, AU presented for the parties' consideration a draft text entitled "Enhanced Ceasefire Agreement for Darfur" and prompted the parties, for the first time, to indicate and map where their forces were deployed in the field. On 22 April, the AU mediation presented the parties with a draft text entitled "Final status security arrangements", which framed the negotiations in several important areas, including disarmament of the Janjaweed, the length of time the movements would be allowed to retain their armed forces, the numbers of former combatants to be absorbed into the Sudanese security services, and the processes for their disarmament, demobilization and societal reintegration.

24. On 25 April, the African Union mediation team presented a comprehensive draft Darfur Peace Agreement, and high-level negotiations intensified with a view to concluding the negotiations by 30 April. The 85-page document prepared by the African Union mediation covers power-sharing, wealth-sharing, security arrangements, and a Darfur-Darfur dialogue and consultation.

25. On 5 May 2006, following a period of intensive negotiations, the Government of the Sudan and the Minawi faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army signed the Darfur Peace Agreement. The comprehensive set of commitments paves the way for the long-awaited restoration of peace to the region, the return of displaced persons, and economic recovery and reconstruction.

26. Meanwhile, Government-sponsored tribal reconciliation initiatives continued to be pursued in Darfur. In Zalingei, Western Darfur, the Government's initiative to engage tribal leaders successfully ended months of fighting between the Al-Hutiya and Al-Nuwaiba communities. In Southern Darfur, however, an initiative of the State Government to help reconcile the Birgit, Zaghawa and Misseria communities in Sheiria was not successful. The Zaghawa representatives did not participate in the tribal talks, and the Birgit and Misseria delegates expressed the view that the reconciliation effort was premature. These examples underline the importance of organizing an inclusive Darfur-Darfur dialogue and consultation to give all Darfurians a sense of engagement in and commitment to the peace process, and to address the many local conflicts that cripple Darfur.

27. During the period under review, the Joint Commission did not meet. The serious deterioration in the situation and the consequent political instability in Chad continued to loom over the Darfur peace process. On 16 April, Chad decided to withdraw its delegation from the Abuja talks, in protest at alleged Sudanese involvement in the recent attack against N'Djamena.

VI. United Nations support to the African Union Mission in the Sudan

28. As at 21 April, AMIS had a total of 6,978 personnel in Darfur, comprising 701 military observers, 1,408 civilian police, 28 international civilian staff, 12 Ceasefire Commission personnel and a protection force of 4,829 troops. UNMIS continued to

liaise closely with AMIS, through regular contacts with the AMIS Special Representative in Khartoum, AMIS personnel in Darfur, and periodic meetings between the United Nations assistance cell and the AU Commission in Addis Ababa. A joint United Nations-AMIS liaison mechanism has been established in El Fasher to enhance coordination and facilitate the provision of United Nations assistance to AMIS.

29. On 31 March, I met with the Chairman of the African Union Commission, Alpha Oumar Konaré to discuss the future of the AU peacekeeping operation in Darfur, as well as options for a United Nations peace support operation in Darfur. At the request of the Chairman, a delegation led by the Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations travelled to Addis Ababa for further consultations with the AU Commission from 12 to 14 April. The discussions led to a renewed commitment to proceed with joint planning for a transition, which was articulated in the joint AU-United Nations communiqué of 12 April. Several concrete areas for United Nations assistance to AMIS were also identified.

30. The delegation then travelled to Khartoum and, on 15 April, met with the President of the Sudan, Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, to discuss the Government's concerns regarding the envisaged transition to a United Nations peace operation in Darfur. President Al-Bashir expressed the view that any discussion of, or preparations for, a transition from AMIS to a United Nations operation would be premature prior to the conclusion of an agreement in Abuja.

VII. Observations

31. I was pleased by the signing, on 5 May, of the Darfur Peace Agreement in Abuja by the Government of the Sudan and one faction of the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army. I commend the Government and the senior leaders of the Minni Minawi faction of SLM/A for demonstrating commitment to reach a political settlement. I also wish to pay tribute to the AU Chief Mediator, Salim Ahmed Salim, for his tireless efforts throughout the many rounds of negotiations, and President Sassou Nguesso and President Obasanjo, as well as their international partners, for their decisive role in the final stages of the process.

32. While the signing of the Agreement represents a major achievement, the parties must now proceed decisively in good faith, and the people of the Sudan and the international community must urgently tackle the challenge of implementation. Darfur is still far from being at peace, and the violence and the deplorable death of an African Union interpreter at the Kalma camp on 7 May 2006 illustrates this tragic reality. I am especially concerned by the fact that there are rebel leaders who have not yet signed the Agreement, and the international community must work to convince them to choose peace over conflict, for the sake of their people.

33. In her visit to Darfur late in April, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights found a dramatic and ongoing deterioration in human rights, security and humanitarian conditions. Both the High Commissioner and the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs have called attention to the urgent need for the Government to ease travel restrictions and create a safer environment for human rights and humanitarian activities. During his visit to Darfur early in May, the Under-Secretary-General was successful in negotiating the reinstating of the Norwegian Refugee Council as Kalma camp coordinator after its expulsion without

explanation by the Government of Southern Darfur earlier in 2006. While this is a positive development, a more definitive step towards facilitating human rights and humanitarian work would be the reform of the law on non-governmental organizations, which currently places undue restrictions on the work of those organizations and on humanitarian access to vulnerable populations.

34. Even as the final rounds of discussion in Abuja were being held, all parties continued to engage in totally unacceptable levels of violence and despicable attacks against civilians, in breach of humanitarian law and earlier ceasefire commitments. I would like to emphasize, therefore, the need for all parties, and the Government of the Sudan in particular, to observe the ceasefire and desist from violence while implementation modalities for the new agreement are being developed.

35. Every effort must be made to ensure that the people of Darfur are protected and assisted, so that they can fully benefit from this historic opportunity to bring peace to Darfur. The immediate priority for the international community must therefore be to strengthen AMIS, so that it can move ahead with implementing the agreement and providing real security for civilians. Concrete requirements for support to AMIS include increasing the number of troops, and providing enhanced logistics and greater financial support. In response to the requests of the African Union, several United Nations experts are already on their way to El Fasher to help AMIS in establishing a Joint Operations Centre and provide assistance with aviation and communications. The United Nations is also ready to start exploring, without delay, the additional AMIS requirements which could then be quickly presented to a donor conference. To this end, the Secretariat is ready to participate in a special meeting with the African Union and donors' representatives in Addis Ababa.

36. A second, critical, priority is to address the continuing humanitarian crisis in Darfur. The 14,000-strong humanitarian community working in the region provides vital services to millions of people in need, despite access restrictions, a volatile security situation, sporadic targeted attacks, and administrative obstacles. A shortage of funding has caused operations to be scaled down, however, and food rations will have been halved as from the beginning of May. I therefore repeat my urgent appeal to the international community to continue supporting the humanitarian effort for Darfur in this critical phase of implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement. Not a single day can be lost in this regard and, as the Under-Secretary-General has argued, the Government of the Sudan must join forces with the international community to bridge the current food deficit and prevent a catastrophic humanitarian crisis.

37. At its meeting at the level of Foreign Ministers held on 9 May 2006, the Security Council confirmed these two priorities and stated, also, the importance of finalizing detailed planning proposals for a United Nations operation in Darfur.

38. A first-hand assessment of the situation on the ground is urgently required. During the technical assessment, the United Nations and the African Union will consult with the Government of National Unity of the Sudan on the way forward, the new requirements for AMIS arising from the Abuja Agreement, and the possible transition to a United Nations operation. These consultations are essential, as no peacekeeping mission can succeed without the support and cooperation of the parties concerned.

39. Finally, the attacks which occurred in Chad in April have further aggravated tensions and fuelled the instability and insecurity along the common border, as well as in Darfur and Chad as a whole. It is therefore essential that every effort be made by the two Governments to defuse tensions and to implement the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006.

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Security Council

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Letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as the representative of the current chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to transmit herewith a communiqué adopted at the fifty-first meeting of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, held in Addis Ababa, on 15 May 2006.

I should be grateful if the text of this communiqué were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Basile **Ikouebe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-35423 (E) 230506

Annex to the letter dated 17 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic, English and French]

Communiqué of the fifty-first meeting of the Peace and Security Council

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union (AU), at its 51st meeting, held at ministerial level, on 15 May 2006, adopted the following decision on the situation in Darfur:

Council,

1. **Takes note** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Commission on the status of implementation of the Peace and Security Council Decision of 10 March 2006 on the situation in Darfur and the conclusion of the Abuja Peace Talks [PSC/MIN/2(LI)];

2. **Welcomes and endorses** the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) signed in Abuja on 5 May 2006 by the Government of National Unity (GoNU) and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) of Minni Minawi, which paves the way for the restoration of lasting peace and security in Darfur. Council **commends** the courage of the GoNU and the leaders of the Movement that signed the DPA and those individuals and groups that subsequently identified themselves with the Agreement and asked to be considered as partners in its implementation. Council **urges** all concerned to respect their commitments and implement the agreement in good faith and without delay;

3. **Pays tribute** to President Olusegun Obasanjo of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of the Republic of Congo, Current Chairman of the AU, for their exhaustive and tireless efforts, which helped in bringing about a successful conclusion to the Abuja Peace Talks. Council **commends** Salim Ahmed Salim, the Special Envoy and Chief Mediator, and his Mediation Team, for their work and sustained efforts that resulted in the signing of the DPA;

4. **Expresses appreciation** to the Chadian co-Mediation, the Facilitators and Observers (Nigeria, Libya, Eritrea and Egypt) and the International Partners (Canada, France, the Netherlands, Norway, the UK, the US, the EU, the League of Arab States and the UN) for the support they extended to the AU Mediation and to the Parties;

5. **Decides** that the effective date for the commencement of the implementation of the DPA shall be 18.00 hours GMT on 16 May 2006;

6. **Stresses** the urgent need for representatives of the signatory Parties, AMIS, the Partners, including the UN, and other stakeholders, to initiate joint outreach campaigns to explain the main provisions and benefits of the DPA to the people of Darfur. In this regard, Council **welcomes** the statement signed by 23 tribal leaders and elders from Darfur and subsequent statements by other groups expressing their full and unconditional support for the DPA and its scrupulous implementation;

7. **Requests** the Commission, in liaison with the Parties and all other stakeholders, to take all necessary steps to facilitate the scrupulous implementation and follow-up of the DPA, in line with the Modalities and Mechanisms contained therein;

8. **Considers** that the DPA, which was the culmination of intensive deliberations and negotiations, conducted by the AU Mediation with the support of the facilitators and international Partners, represents a fair and comprehensive solution to the conflict in Darfur, addresses the legitimate demands of the Movements, and meets the aspirations of the people of Darfur. Council, therefore, **is of the view** that there are no legitimate grounds for any group in Darfur to use military means to achieve its goals;

9. **Deeply regrets** the failure of the SLM/A group led by Abdulwahid Al Nour and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) of Khalil Ibrahim to sign the DPA, despite all the efforts made by the Mediation, African Leaders and the representatives of the AU Partners present in Abuja during the final phase of the Peace Talks, and subsequent to the signing of the Agreement on 5 May 2006;

10. **Urges** the SLM/A group of Abdulwahid Al Nour and the JEM of Khalil Ibrahim to sign the DPA by 31 May 2006, failing which it shall consider measures, including sanctions, to be applied against the leadership and members of the concerned groups;

11. **Demands** that all groups in Darfur immediately commit themselves to be bound by the provisions of the DPA, in particular those relating to the Comprehensive Ceasefire, as well as relevant previous agreements. Council **stresses** that any act by any individual or group, including military acts on the ground and all other acts aimed at undermining the DPA, shall be considered to be inimical to the interests of the people of Darfur and an affront to the AU and the larger international community;

12. **Undertakes** to review regularly, in close coordination and consultation with the UN Security Council, the implementation of the DPA and to take strong and effective measures against any individual or group in Darfur that violate the Ceasefire Agreement and those who may attempt to block the implementation of the DPA, including a request to the United Nations Security Council to impose a travel ban and assets freeze, as provided for in resolution 1591 (2005);

13. **Stresses** the urgent need to review the current mandate of AMIS and to increase significantly its strength, particularly in light of the additional tasks to be performed by the Mission as part of the implementation of the provisions of the DPA relating to the Comprehensive Ceasefire and Final Security Arrangements;

14. **Requests** the Chairperson of the Commission to submit to it detailed proposals for the enhancement of AMIS in terms of additional troops and civilian police personnel, logistics and overall capacity. In the meantime, Council **invites** the Chairperson of the Commission to consult urgently with potential troop contributing countries, as well as with AU Partners to secure the required support;

15. **Decides** that, in view of the signing of the DPA, concrete steps should be taken to effect the transition from AMIS to a UN peacekeeping operation. To that end, Council **urges** the UN and the GoNU to engage in consultations in line with the provisions of paragraph 6 of its communiqué of 10 March 2006 and as a follow-up to the Statement PRST/2006/21 issued by the President of the United

Nations Security Council on 9 May 2006, so as to ensure the commencement of the UN operation in Darfur at the earliest possible time;

16. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of the Republic of the Sudan and its determination to work very closely with the GoNU to ensure that peace, security and reconciliation take place throughout Sudan;

17. **Encourages** the Committee of Heads of State and Government, referred to in paragraph 7 of its decision of 10 March 2006, to remain seized with the matter and continues to assist in the implementation of the DPA;

18. **Expresses deep concern** at the precarious financial situation facing AMIS and appeals to AU Partners to provide the necessary support to the Mission to allow it to continue to perform its mandate during the transition and to enable the AU to assume effectively its important political role in the overall implementation of the DPA. Council **encourages** the Chairperson of the Commission to expedite preparations for the convening, in Brussels, during the month of June, with the support of the United Nations and the European Union, of a Pledging Conference to mobilize the resources required for the enhancement and sustainment of AMIS;

19. **Also expresses deep concern** at the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Darfur, and **appeals** to the international community and the member states to provide the much needed support, including funding to WFP, UNICEF, UNHCR and other humanitarian agencies, in order to facilitate the provision of humanitarian assistance to the affected population in Darfur as well as to the refugees and host communities in Chad;

20. **Further expresses concern** at the deterioration of relations between Chad and the Sudan and **calls on** both countries to fully respect and implement their commitments as spelt out in the Tripoli Agreement of 8 February 2006. Council **looks forward** to the early submission by the Chairperson of the Commission of options on how to support the implementation of the Tripoli Agreement, including support by AMIS, as requested in the decision adopted at its 47th meeting, held in 21 March 2006;

21. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.